

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2152

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10048

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: GOP COMMENT ON PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 7984, STATE 228271

SUMMARY: ACCORDING MFA OFFICIAL, HARD LINE BHUTTO TOOK TOWARD AFGHANISTAN IN JUST-COMPLETED TOUR OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER WAS BELATED RESPONSE TO LONG SERIES AFGHAN PROVOCATIONS INCLUDING RADIO KABUL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, INCREASED DESPATCH OF AFGHAN SUBVERSIVE AGENTS TO PAK TRIBAL TERRITORY, AND GOA DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERINGS WITH SOVIET UNION AND INDIA. PAKS CLAIM TO FEEL THAT, SINCE POLICY OF RESTRAINT HAS FAILED DISSUADE GOA FROM PRESSING PUSHTUNISTAN CAMPAIGN, FIRMNESS MAY BE THE ONLY ANSWER. END SUMMARY.

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1. POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR

AFGHANISTAN, MANSUR AHMAD, NOVEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS STATE OF PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS IN WAKE OF BHUTTO SPEAKING TOUR OF NWFP.

2. DIRGEN CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS AS "STEADILY DETERIORATING" SINCE DAUD SEIZED POWER DESPITE SUSTAINED GOP EFFORT TO GET ALONG WITH DAUD REGIME. GOA, HE COMPLAINED, HAD MOUNTED SERIES OF PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN THAT HAD MADE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR GOP TO MAINTAIN ITS RESTRAINT. STRONG LINE TAKEN BY BHUTTO DURING HIS NWFP TOUR WAS REFLECTION OF PAK INABILITY DISSUADE GOA FROM ITS COURSE THROUGH MODERATION. AHMAD THEN RECITED LIST OF WHAT GOP SAW AS AFGHAN PROVOCATIONS.

3. FIRST OF ALL, DIRGEN SAID, RADIO KABUL HAD BEEN CARRYING ON SUSTAINED BROADCAST CAMPAIGN IN PUSHTU, BEAMED AT PATHANS OF NWFP. BROADCAST FEATURED DISTORTED ACCOUNTS OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN, BASELESS STORIES OF EXPLOITATION OF PATHANS BY PUNJABIS, AND GLORIFICATION WALI KHAN. MOST OBJECTIONABLE TO GOP WAS CONSTANT USE OF TERM "OCCUPIED PUSHTUNISTAN" IN REFERRING TO NWFP AND "OCCUPIED SOUTHERN PUSHTUNISTAN" FOR BALUCHISTAN. DIRGEN SHOWED POL COUNSELOR TRANSCRIPTS OF SEVERAL DAYS' MONITORING OF RADIO KABUL, WHICH INCLUDED STORY ABOUT EVICTION "PUNJABI EXPLOITERS" FROM OCCUPIED PUSHTUNISTAN AND SEVERAL OTHER GROSSLY SLANTED REPORTS.

4. SINGLE MOST "VICIOUS" RADIO KABUL BROADCAST, AHMAD CONTINUED, OCCURRED ON AUGUST 31 DURING AFGHAN CELEBRATION OF "PUSHTUNISTAN DAY", WHEN FORMER NAP SEC GEN AJMAL KHATTAK (RESIDENT IN KABUL SINCE SPRING OF 1973) DELIVERED "VENOMOUS" TIRADE WHICH INCLUDED HIGHLY OFFENSIVE PERSONAL ATTACK ON BHUTTO.

5. IN ADDITION TO RADIO KABUL BROADCASTS, DIRGEN CONTINUED, AFGHANS HAD STRONGLY PROTESTED SERIES OF GOP ACTIONS IN PURELY DOMESTIC FIELD, INCLUDING RECENT ARREST OF LOWER ECHELON NAP FIGURES AND PAK ROADBUILDING IN MOHMAND AGENCY. THEY HAD ALSO CHARGED PAK COMPLICITY
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IN ABORTIVE MAIWANDWAL COUP, THREATENING PUBLICLY TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF PAK INVOLVEMENT. AFGHANS HAD NEVER DONE SO, AHMAD NOTED, BECAUSE THERE WAS NONE TO PRODUCE.

6. OTHER PROVOCATIVE GOA ACTIONS, ACCORDING AHMAD, WERE DOCUMENTED BY AFGP CORRESPONDENT BRIAN MAY IN REPORT FILED FROM KABUL IN EARLY NOVEMBER. MAY HAD CALLED ON AJMAL KHATTAK IN KABUL, HAD BEEN TREATED TO DESCRIPTION

OF HOW KHATTAK WAS COORDINATING TRIBAL INSURRECTION IN BALUCHISTAN AND HAD EVEN BEEN INTRODUCED TO TWO PERSONS KHATTAK IDENTIFIED AS BALUCH GUERRILLA LEADERS WHO HAD COME TO KABUL TO REPORT TO HIM. (EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY OF MAY'S ARTICLE THROUGH USIS CHANNELS AND IS POUCHING TO ADDRESSEES.)

7. PAKS WERE ALSO DISTURBED AT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AGENTS GOA WAS SENDING TO TRIBAL AREAS IN PAKISTAN, AHMAD SAID. THIS ACTIVITY HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR MANY YEARS, HE CONCEDED, AND PAKS HAD DONE THEIR SHARE OF IT AS WELL, BUT SINCE DAUD TOOK POWER THERE HAD BEEN MARKED INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AFGHAN AGENTS PASSING OUT MONEY TO NWFP TRIBESMEN AND URGING THEM RISE AGAINST PAKISTAN. WHAT MOST DISTURBED GOP, DIRGEN CONTINUED, WAS THAT ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WERE TAKING PLACE BACKDROP OF INTENSE AFGHAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY CLEARLY DIRECTED AT PAKISTAN. HE CITED NAIM'S TRIPS TO MOSCOW AND DELHI, SWARAN SINGH'S VISIT TO KABUL AND, ABOVE ALL, WEEK-LONG VISIT OF HIGH-POWER SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION.

7. CONCLUDING, DIREGEN SAID GOP HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO INTERPRET THESE GOA ACTIVITIES AS PART OF DETERMINED AFGHAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN. PAKS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND MOTIVES FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. SOME TALKED OF POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN DAUD REGIME, OTHERS OF SOVIET BACKSTAGE MANAGING. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR AFGHANS BEHAVIOR, HOWEVER, GOP HAD REACHED RELUCTANT CONCLUSION THAT RESTRAINT ON ITS PART WAS ENCOURAGING AFGHAN INTRANSIGENCE AND THAT TIME HAD COME FOR FIRM REMINDER THAT GOP COULD NOT TOLERATE INTERFERENCE IN ITS COMESTIC AFFAIRS.

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8. AFTER LISTENING TO FOREGOING RECITATION GOP COMPLAINTS, POL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED HOPE BOTH SIDES WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT NOT TO EXACERBATE SITUATION FURTHER. DIRGEN REPLIED THAT GOP WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS DAUD CONTINUED TO PURSUE HIS ACTIVE PUSHTUNISTAN CAMPAIGN.
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